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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

1981 session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 18 February 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. SUY (Under-Secretary-General,
the Legal Counsel)

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Election of officers

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The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

1. Mr. ESCUDERO (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Latin American Group, nominated Mr. González-Gálvez (Mexico) for the office of Chairman and suggested that he should be elected by acclamation.
2. Mr. GÜNEY (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, requested that more time should be allowed for consultations between the regional groups so that an acceptable solution could be found to the question of the composition of the Bureau.
3. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the African Group, whole-heartedly supported the candidacy of Mr. González-Gálvez. His delegation failed to see why more time should be needed for consultations and wished to place on record its belief that no more time should be wasted on the subject.
4. Mr. CHATURVEDI (India) supported the candidacy of Mr. González-Gálvez.
5. Mr. OLSZOWKA (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Eastern European Group, said he fully agreed with the representative of Egypt that time should not be wasted on procedural matters. However, in view of the complexity of the situation, he agreed with the representative of Turkey that further consultations were necessary.
6. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) suggested that representatives of the regional groups should meet privately to discuss the matter further. The Western European and other States were prepared to work out an arrangement on which a consensus could be reached, since consensus was the only rational way for the Committee to proceed.
7. Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia) said that, although Yugoslavia was geographically part of the Eastern European Group, it did not share the views expressed by the representative of Poland and it supported the candidacy of Mr. González-Gálvez.
8. Mr. CHEBELEU (Romania) said that he must regretfully dissociate his delegation from the position taken by the Eastern European Group. His delegation had stated during consultations that it whole-heartedly supported the candidacy of Mr. González-Gálvez because it firmly believed that the office of Chairman should rotate among the geographical regions.
9. Mr. BUENO (Brazil) said that his delegation also believed in the principle of rotation and whole-heartedly supported the nomination of Mr. González-Gálvez. He endorsed the comments made by the representative of Egypt and urged the Committee to expedite its work. Since there appeared to be only one candidate, the Committee could elect its Chairman and then hold consultations regarding the other officers.

10. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN noted that a rather strange situation had arisen: although the Committee normally took decisions by consensus, and although a majority of members of the Committee were in favour of the sole candidate, at least two regional groups had been unable to take a final decision which would permit a consensus to be reached. He asked whether the two groups considered that it would be possible for them to come to a decision in the near future.

11. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) pointed out that it had been suggested that consultations should be held among representatives of the regional groups. He found it hard to believe that anyone would wish to start the session by refusing to hold such consultations. Accordingly, the Committee should proceed with such consultations forthwith.

12. Mr. CHEBELEU (Romania) said that he had no objection to consultations between regional groups, provided that they were open to all interested delegations.

13. Mr. CORTI (Argentina) said that his delegation was not normally in favour of refusing requests for consultations. However, consultations had been under way since the previous day and the Latin American Group had not yet been consulted. There seemed little point in agreeing to consultations unless they would in fact take place, particularly since members of the two groups concerned were also in favour of the Mexican candidate. He urged the Committee to elect its Chairman and then proceed with consultations on the remaining officers.

14. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN suggested that, although no delegation had formally opposed the request for consultations between representatives of the regional groups, it might nevertheless be advisable to suspend the meeting briefly.

15. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at noon and resumed at 1.15 p.m.

16. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN suggested that, since informal negotiations were still under way, the Committee should adjourn and meet again in the afternoon.

17. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.